

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 A computer application program executing on a computer, such as a
3 portable computer, is selected for termination by first identifying computer
4 application programs executing on the computer. A priority value is assigned to
5 each of the identified computer applications. The priority value is based on
6 multiple characteristics of the identified computer application programs. The
7 computer application program with the smallest priority value is automatically
8 terminated. If the computer application program with the smallest priority value is
9 in a modal state in which it waits for a response from a user, then a default
10 response is provided to the application prior to terminating the computer
11 application program. The characteristics associated with the computer application
12 programs may include average launch times, average memory usages, a class or
13 type of application, frequencies of usage, and an amount of data stored on the
14 computer by the computer application program.

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